

serves both to increase the safety of air travel while protecting the rights and needs of air traffic personnel. Recent events at the Pittsburgh International Airport near my district in western Pennsylvania showcase the difficulties which can inhibit maintaining a high degree of air traffic safety in our country.

The development of a new procurement system will help to ensure that air traffic personnel obtain proper safety equipment in a more timely manner. The reduction of the often overwhelmingly burdensome Federal procurement rules will increase safety effectiveness as well as guard against increased costs, waste, and abuse. As I am always concerned how legislation will affect the working men and women in Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, I am pleased that H.R. 2276 explicitly states that new FAA personnel systems would not be exempt from whistleblowers protection laws, laws prohibiting discrimination or strikes, workers and unemployment compensation, retirement, labor-management relations, and life and health insurance laws. The air traffic workers in my district support this legislation, and eagerly anticipate its enactment so that they will be able to maximize their ability to maintain the high level of air traffic safety that is absolutely necessary.

I would like to conclude my remarks with words of encouragement for removing the Federal Airport and Airway Trust Fund from the unified Federal budget. As a cosponsor of H.R. 842, the Truth in Budgeting Act, I was disappointed to find that off-budget provisions were deleted from the final language of the bill. As a cosponsor, I encourage my colleagues to support final passage of H.R. 2276 today, and I look forward to debating the merits of H.R. 842 in the near future. Revitalizing the FAA will benefit travelers, air traffic personnel, and the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall safety of air travel.

HONORING ELLA MILLER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Ella Miller for her tireless efforts in working with the children of Fairfax County in the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. She will be honored on March 16, 1996, at the Hunter Mill District Republican Committee's recognition dinner for African-American community-based organizations.

Mrs. Miller was born in 1880, a mere 15 years after the end of the Civil War to parents who were former slaves in rural southern Tennessee. She was unable to attend school, but recognized the value of education and gained what knowledge she could at night from her siblings who did attend school.

After leaving Tennessee, Mrs. Miller relocated to Cincinnati, OH, where she worked as a domestic for two families until she reached the age of 107, after which time she decided to retire and moved to Vienna, VA, where she lives with her niece. She is now 115 years of age and continues to be active.

Mrs. Miller, expressing a desire to share her life's experiences, visits with students at elementary schools in Fairfax County, VA, where she has become a symbol of "Living History"

to all of the fortunate children she has touched through her reflections on history, famous people she has met, and her messages about faith, obedience, caring for others, and belief in oneself. She is a living example that you are never too old to learn.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Ella Miller for all she has done for our children and wish her the best of luck for her future endeavors.

CONCERT FOR DEMOCRACY: TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI, REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1996, Representative and Mrs. Benjamin Lu of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, DC, will host the Music for Democracy Concert at the Kennedy Center. This concert is a celebration of the Republic of China's long journey toward complete democratization.

The Republic of China's democratization has been rapid and total. Over the last 8 years, President Lee Teng-hui has presided over economic and political liberalization, the free election of the National Assembly, three elections of the Legislative Yuan, the Republic of China's Parliament, and the election of the Governor of Taiwan Province and mayors of Taipei and Kaohsiung, culminating in the Republic of China's free and direction election of the President of the Republic of China on March 23, 1996.

President Lee Teng-hui is one of four Presidential candidates on the March 23 ballot. Regardless of the outcome of this election, President Lee Teng-hui must be complimented and respected for his unwavering determination to bring total democracy to his country. He alone has brought to fulfillment the dreams and aspirations of the Chinese people for a free and open society.

I wish to extend our best wishes to Representative and Mrs. Lu and to all the Chinese people living in the Republic of China. These are indeed trying times for them, but democracy, as always, will most certainly prevail over any adversity.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, important new research by University of Minnesota ecologist David Tilman has confirmed what many know instinctively—biodiversity is a critical element of environmental and ecological health. Dr. Tilman worked in conjunction with botanist David Wedin and Johannes Knops, and recently published the results of an important plant study in the scientific journal *Nature*.

In Dr. Tilman's recent study, researchers in Bethel, MN planted 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, or 24 species of prairie plants in plots measuring 3

meters square. The plots received equal watering and weeding. The results showed that the more diverse a given plot was in terms of species the more productive the plants were. The plants in diverse plots were also better able to withstand stresses such as extreme weather or drought. The bottom line, according to Dr. Tilman, is that regional and global ecosystems must be diverse in order to thrive and produce benefits such as filtering water, enriching the soil, and purifying our air.

We in Congress must recognize the important policy implications of this significant plant study. If Congress superimposes clearcutting and similar harvest practices in our forests and public lands and permits replanting of limited species, the forests will lose their biodiversity and our forest ecosystems will become less and less productive. The current moratorium on the listing of new species under the Endangered Species Act could have a further devastating effect on available biodiversity, and ecosystems will become less durable and productive. Those policy actions, which disregard science, could have severe consequences for us and future generations. We need to follow good science and stewardship today for tomorrow.

I am including with this statement a copy of a recent article printed in the Minneapolis Star Tribune describing Dr. Tilman's research and its implications. I urge all my colleagues to read this informative article.

[From the Minneapolis Star Tribune]

BIODIVERSITY IS ROOT OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH

(By Tom Meersman)

University of Minnesota ecologist David Tilman just keeps growing things. And he just keeps learning more about the inner workings of nature in the process.

His latest findings, published today in the international scientific journal *Nature*, indicate that growing a variety of plants and grasses in a given area is much better for the environment than having only a few species.

While prevailing wisdom might dictate that one or two types of plants in an area would thrive because of minimal competition, Tilman's research shows the opposite: Different plants don't compete so much as they complement each another and function as a community.

Tilman has been studying native Minnesota grasslands for the past 13 years on university land at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area near Bethel, about 35 miles north of the Twin Cities. It's one of 18 sites in the nation where scientists conduct long-term ecological research.

In his latest study, Tilman worked with botanist David Wedin, of the University of Toronto, and Johannes Knops, an adjunct faculty member in ecology at the University of Minnesota.

In 1994 the researchers and their summer interns planted 147 plots, each 3 meters square, with one, two, four, six, eight, 12 or 24 different prairie plants, chosen randomly from a pool of 24 species. The plots had homogeneous soils, were watered equally and were weeded from elevated boardwalks at regular intervals. Last summer the team measured how productive the plants were in various plots and what had happened to the soil chemistry.

The results, Tilman said, show that "plots that are more diverse can hold more of the nutrients and sustain the fertility of the soils." Plots that had few species were not as productive, he said, and their soil lost important nutrients.

What this means, he said, is that diversity—having a large number of different

plants—is critical to maintaining environmental quality. “It strongly suggests that we could have more productive forests and grasslands if, for example, forests weren’t cut and replanted with just one species,” Tilman said.

One of the reasons why diversity is important, Tilman said, is because different plants have particular niches in the ecosystem. They capture nutrients at different times of the growing season, they have different kinds of root systems, and they bloom and mature at different stages.

In turn, that produces a true community of plants that is productive, efficient and able to withstand extreme weather and other natural stresses, Tilman said. Two years ago he showed, in a different experiment at Cedar Creek, that species-rich grasslands were able to recover more rapidly from drought than species-poor plots.

On a regional and even global scale, Tilman said, ecosystems must be diverse if we expect them to continue filtering water, producing food, decomposing waste, enriching soil and purifying air.

“If we simplify nature by destroying habitat or by subdividing land into little fragments, we lose these species. We lost what they’re best at doing in the ecosystem, and it shows through a loss of productivity,” he said.

Samual McNaughton, an ecology professor at Syracuse University, said Tilman’s work is particularly significant. “Many authoritative people say the Earth is now going through this ‘extinction spasm’ because of man’s activities,” he said, and people are asking what is going to happen to the functioning of the biosphere.

“One of the important question is: ‘Do species matter?’” McNaughton said. “Tilman’s work shows that the number of species does matter. And if the way ecosystems function is tied to biodiversity, we need to know it.”

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S JEWISH WAR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute America’s Jewish war veterans as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. As one of our Nation’s oldest and most active veterans organizations, the Jewish War Veterans have served our country with honor and distinction. We certainly owe them our praise and acknowledgment for their bravery and patriotism as they gather to celebrate this most significant event.

I have always admired our Jewish veterans for fearlessly guarding the interests of our great Nation and defending democratic principles worldwide. Thousands of Jewish-American service men and women have risked their lives for the sake of freedom and stability in foreign lands. Not only have they fought bravely, but they have also tended to the sick, hopeless, and disabled in hospitals and clinics. Their leadership has been instrumental in guiding our country in times of strife. America’s Jewish veterans have certainly done much to improve the lives of people everywhere and will continue to do so in times ahead.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in saluting this important group as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. I wish them continued

peace, good health, and success in all of their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DR. MICHAEL
DEBAKEY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. Michael DeBakey of Houston for his induction into the Health Care Hall of Fame on March 10, 1996. I am proud to represent Dr. DeBakey, who is director of the DeBakey Heart Center at Methodist Hospital in Houston and chancellor emeritus of the Baylor College of Medicine, also in Houston.

Dr. DeBakey first emerged as a medical legend in 1964 when he performed the first successful coronary bypass surgery. However, this distinguished achievement is just one of the many remarkable achievements during Dr. DeBakey’s career.

Through six decades of research, Dr. DeBakey has fought the most indiscriminate of killers: heart disease. He has operated on patients from international statesmen to indigent people for whom he donated his services. The doctor’s patients have traveled from more than 80 countries to be healed by his expertise. All told, his talent has mended more than 80,000 human hearts.

Dr. DeBakey is a perfectionist for whom a 17- to 18-hour day is typical. The doctor’s medical expertise as well as these extremely long days have led to more than 40 prestigious medical awards.

Dr. DeBakey’s career truly has been medical history in the making. Back in 1932, while still in Tulane Medical School, he developed the roller pump, an instrument that became the pumping system for the open-heart surgery used around the world. Following services as a surgical consultant to the U.S. Army Surgeon General during World War II, he returned to Tulane as an assistant professor of surgery.

In 1948, he was selected chairman of the newly formed department of surgery at Baylor. When Dr. DeBakey first arrived, Baylor did not have an affiliated hospital so he suggested that Harris County’s public hospital, Jefferson Davis Hospital, serve as Baylor’s teaching hospital. It was at Jefferson Davis Hospital that Dr. DeBakey performed the first abdominal aortic aneurysm replacement in the United States and the first heart valve replacement in Houston. In 1952, Dr. DeBakey again made history by developing the first Dacron artificial grafts that would later serve as replacements for diseased arteries. One year later, he performed the first successful endarterectomy; a procedure in which the lesion is peeled away from an artery wall. This treatment helped reduce a major cause of strokes.

Before long, Houston was home to the world’s largest cardiovascular center in terms of heart surgeries performed.

Dr. DeBakey has played a role in nearly every aspect of health care. He has been an adviser to almost every President and was influential in some of the most important milestones of health policy. He was instrumental in establishing the National Library of Medicine, mobile army surgical hospitals [MASH], and

the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital system.

The Greater Houston area is proud of Dr. DeBakey’s accomplishments and grateful for all that he has contributed to our community. That gratitude is shared by millions of people around the world who have benefited either personally from his medical care or from products and knowledge derived from his medical research. Dr. Michael DeBakey has improved all of our lives.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. FLYNN

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1996 grand marshal of the New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade, William J. Flynn, chairman of the board of Mutual of America Life Insurance Co.

The New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade is the oldest and largest parade in the history of New York. This year, the parade will be led by Grand Marshal William J. Flynn, a remarkable business leader and philanthropist who has excelled in all of his undertakings.

Mr. Flynn is a leader in this church, the business community and the peace movement in Northern Ireland. He has served as a significant architect of the peace process in Northern Ireland, and is steadfast in his commitment to a just and lasting peace in all of Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, William Flynn is also an active leader and participant in numerous church, charitable, political, and social organizations. Mr. Flynn answers to the title of husband, father, grandfather, chairman, president, Knight of Malta and now grand marshal. But perhaps the most fitting and worthy title for William J. Flynn is that of peacemaker.

Scripture tells us that “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.” William J. Flynn is truly a peacemaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of William J. Flynn, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

DO NOT IMPERIL OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to protest the new majority’s plans for education. The appropriations legislation put forth before the House last week would make the largest cut in education in our history. My home State of California stands to lose almost \$400 million. Programs that serve the neediest children were not even spared. A large share of the cut in funding for California—\$122.3 million—is a reduction in education for disadvantaged children. Both the safe and drug-free schools and bilingual education programs are cut by 60 percent.